pens made of bamboo. Meo women excel in raising these pigs, which are of a special variety. They know how to dose the maize and leave it whole or break it up into particles of varying size according as it is to be used to feed a male shut in its narrow pen, a female with a litter, a pregnant female, or the young pigs which come and go freely in the house like the chickens. A few Meo of Thanh Hoá -- the wealthiest ones -- also have a horse to ride to market, and buffalo. But the latter wander about over the mountains and are hardly ever slaughtered except for funerals. Mi 231

Like the Man, the Meo of the province cultivate only rẫy, and change their site every two, three or four years. On the hills and even slopes they sow rice broadcast in the third and fourth months and harvest it in the ninth and tenth months. I have seen some with superb, well-filled husks and enormous grains (3). Elsewhere, in /235/ the Mi 241

3. The Meo grow chiefly common rice, and little of the glutinous kind, in contrast to the Thai. On the other hand, the latter do not sow their mountain rice broadcast, but place it in holes.

basins, they alternate maize which is sowed in holes and grows and ripens from the second to the eighth month (1) with opium which is

1. In the Thai rẫy of the same region, situated at a lower altitude, maize is harvested in the sixth month.

sowed broadcast in the eighth month. Besides maize and rice which form the basis of their food supply, the Meo grow a few batatas, some cassava and some sugar cane.

The women busy themselves with hemp, with which they weave nearly all the cloth the family needs. From this material dyed blue or left white, they make their peculiar and rather funny clothing, the upper part of which is like that of a sailor and the lower part like that of a dancer -- a little jacket with a sailor collar and narrow sleeves, and a skirt which comes down only to the knee but which has so many pleats that it becomes very heavy. The women also wear long leggings and high turbans, and on holidays the collars and skirts of their garments are brightened with white on blue designs and with a childish mass of tricolored materials. Mi 287 291

Hospitable people, the Meo of Thanh Hoá have remained timid 005